

Update on the California Department of Health Services Reorganization

Senate Bill 162 (SB 162) establishes the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) within the existing Health and Human Services Agency and statutorily transfers certain responsibilities from the California Department of Health Services (CDHS) to the new CDPH, effective July 1, 2007. At the same time, CDHS is renamed as the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS).

There are several benefits to the reorganization of the CDHS into CDPH and DHCS:

- To provide more focused leadership in public health and health care financing at the state level.
- To streamline management of complex program components along functional lines.
- To create a more effective public health infrastructure in California resulting in decreased illness, injury, and death rates.
- To provide greater protection for California residents in the event of an act of bioterrorism or other major public health emergency.
- To increase accountability, responsiveness, effectiveness and transparency for the public health and health care purchasing functions of state government.
- To provide visibility on important health care issues to providers, local health departments, federal government, Legislature, advocates, press and general public.
- To recruit and retain top quality staff for the new Departments.

Current day-to-day operations for the Radiologic Health Branch will continue under the new CDPH after July 1. For more information about the CDHS reorganization, including organization charts and frequently asked questions, please go to the following website:

<http://www.dhs.ca.gov/home/organization/reorganization>

In mid-June, CDHS will send out specific information about new email addresses, website links, mailing addresses and other information that you will need to communicate with the CDPH and DHCS programs. We also will post this information on the above website for ready reference.